

**Written Testimony of Renee Centore-Kelly of Enfield,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 1, 2010.**

Testimony in Support of:

**House Bill 5126**, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut;

**House Bill 5130**, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee,

**My name is Renee Centore-Kelly and I am a resident of Enfield.**

I am in writing because I strongly support HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

As a mother of a young daughter, I am concerned about the products around her. Parents work so hard to keep their kids safe, and we must have some kind of assurance that the things around them, especially those that are made for and marketed to them follow a standard. A standard that lets us know that we don't have to question what long term health effects they may be suffering as a result of the toys they play with. With ever changing information on chemicals that may cause serious harm and the difficulty of even knowing if they are in our products, we need oversight to help us ensure our children's health. Many people do not even know that certain substances may pose a risk. They assume that if it is legal it must be safe, not knowing about evidence stating otherwise. It would be impossible for someone to keep up on every chemical and every product and all of the literature about them. This bill will help protect families and help streamline the process so that it is not an uphill battle every time something needs to be removed from the market, while keeping a fair timeframe for the companies affected by the law to comply with it.

A Chemical Innovations Institute could also follow in this same spirit of protecting families while also being an economic development opportunity for Connecticut. Having safer chemical alternatives could provide long term savings for worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs, and waste disposal, while not requiring the State to contribute financially.

Please pass these bills and help protect families! Thank you for your time!

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